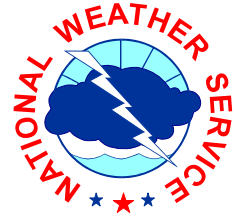




**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
WESTERN REGION  
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH**



**JANUARY 2, 2003**

## **Happy New Year from Western Region Headquarters**

### **REGIONAL DIRECTOR**

**Elaine Robinson to Retire!** On January 10, 2003, Elaine Robinson will be trading early morning bus rides and long, sometime hectic, days of keeping the front office running for leisurely days, sleeping in and relaxing on her boat. After 21 years working in Western Region Headquarters, Elaine will be move on to the life of retirement. Elaine started as a Clerk Stenographer in Western Region's Meteorological Services Division in October 1981. In 1988 she moved to Scientific Services Division. In February 2001 she was promoted to Secretary in the front office. Elaine received numerous awards throughout her career for excellence in performance of her duties. We will remember her for her dedication to the job and wish to say thanks for all she contributed to the region and the National Weather Service. We wish Elaine and her husband Jerry the very best in the years ahead.

### **DEPUTY REGIONAL DIRECTOR**

On December 27, a strong Pacific Storm moved onto the Washington and Oregon coasts. Forty mile per hour winds with gusts to 73 mph were common, and in the Washington Cascade mountains, a gust to 128 mph was recorded at the White Pass Ski facility. One 10 year old boy died when he stepped on a downed power line near Olympia, Washington, and four people were injured by falling trees in Tacoma and Seattle, Washington, as well as in Gresham, Oregon. In the State of Washington, about 300,000 persons lost power. The Space Needle in Seattle was closed for a period of time because of the high winds. Weather Forecast Offices Seattle and Portland did an excellent job alerting citizens of the two states about the storm. Special weather statements were issued three days in advance, high wind watches had a lead time of 34 hours, and lead times for high wind warnings in Washington and Oregon were in the 10-11 hour time frame. The Seattle office held a news conference prior to the storm which was heavily attended by the media. The advance notice and emphasis on the storm likely prevented additional injuries and deaths. Congratulations to WFOs Seattle and Portland for a good job!

### **METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES DIVISION**

**Statement of the Week:** This edition of the Statement of the Week follows up on the storm system that affected the Pacific Northwest late last week. After a warning event has concluded, WFO Portland frequently issues Public Information Statements that contain information on warnings issued and reports of severe weather received. These statements

provide a nice summary of the event for both the media and general public, and can help an office keep track of information when storms hit an area in rapid succession. The following great example was compiled by HMT Dean Sondag...thanks Dean!

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE PORTLAND OR  
915 AM PST FRI DEC 27 2002

TODAYS WARNING VERIFICATION...

.EVENT...HIGH WIND WARNING...

.WARNINGS AND ADVISORIES ISSUED...  
HIGH WIND WARNING ISSUED 2:24 PM DEC 26 2002

.WEATHER REPORTS...COASTAL AREA  
FOLLOWING WIND OBSERVATIONS REPORTED TODAY: PRELIMINARY  
LOCATION TIME (PST) MAX SUSTAINED PEAK GUST

ASTORIA	6:37 AM	37 MPH	59 MPH
TILLAMOOK	4:00 AM		60 MPH
CANNON BEACH	OVERNIGHT		68 MPH
LINCOLN CITY	5:15 AM		58 MPH
NEWPORT AIRPORT	1:34 AM	45 MPH	65 MPH
NEWPORT JETTY	3:00 AM	47 MPH	MISG
FLORENCE	MDNT		72 MPH
CEDAR (E OF PAC CITY)	3:13 AM		58 MPH
WILKINSON (E OF YACHATS)	4:39 AM		57 MPH

FOR THIS AND OTHER STORM SUMMARIES...SEE OUR WEBPAGE AT:  
[HTTP://WWW.WR.NOAA.GOV/PORTLAND/VERIFICATION.HTML](http://www.wr.noaa.gov/portland/verification.html)  
(THIS URL IS ALL IN LOWER CASE).

## HYDROLOGY AND CLIMATE SERVICES DIVISION

**Hydrology Requirements for Watch, Warning, Advisory Software:** Western Region Hydrology and Climate Services Division (HCSD) is working with the WFOs to define requirements for producing hydrology products with the Watch, Warning, and Advisory (WWA) software. Specifically, the WWA developers have asked the hydrology program if there is a requirement for WWA to support both segmented and non-segmented products. Currently, the other product generation software available in AWIPS (WarnGen and RiverPro) support both segmented and non-segmented products. So does the current version of WWA. However, due to revisions to WWA being made for AWIPS Operational Build #2 (which should be released to the field in late summer 2003), the developers see an opportunity to streamline WWA code and free some resources by limiting WWA to only segmented products. At least some Western Region WFOs are currently issuing non-segmented hydrologic products. Input from the WFOs on the potential impact of the loss

of this WWA capability on services is being collected and will be forwarded to the developers through the Office of Climate, Water, and Weather Service, Hydrologic Services Division it time to meet AWIPS Operational Build #2. If negative impacts on services are identified, HSCD will request that WWA retain the capability for producing non-segmented products.

## SCIENTIFIC SERVICES DIVISION

**2002 NCEP Review (December 11,12):** This year's review focused on both continuing and new programs. The contract for the IBM upgrade is well underway, with the first phase currently undergoing testing. The deliverable upgrade due to be operational in early 2003 will be 2.5 times faster than the current configuration of the IBM SP. Later upgrades through the contract will deliver a super computer system that is 48 times faster than the current system by the year 2009. In addition to the new super computer, planned changes for the upcoming months include development and testing of the Weather and Research Forecast system (WRF) framework which is slated to replace all of the operational models beginning in 2006. This system is a community-based model that will marry both the research and operational communities to a common modeling system. Operational model development will continue with focus on improvements to the parameterization schemes, data assimilation systems, and, of course, resolution increases. Ultimately, development to the current operational model suite will eventually diminish in favor of the transition to the WRF system. The 8 km High Resolution Runs (HRW) of the Eta system will continue to see improvements, including more time on the production side of the IBM and will have some priority, particularly for fire weather/ IMET support (NMM). Increased emphasis at EMC will focus on product delivery and timing with NCEP Central Operations now governing implementation procedures. In addition, NCEP has focused on improving organizational interactions, such as tying operational model development to the dissemination of data and AWIPS build procedures.

## SYSTEMS OPERATIONS DIVISION

**Regional AWIPS Upgrade Status:** As of December 31, all but two sites in Western Region have completed the AWIPS Release 5.2.2 upgrade. WFO Reno and WFO Pendleton have volunteered to test Maintenance Release 5.2.2.2. Meanwhile, installations of archive servers (AXs) and IFPS 12.2 are occurring and will continue into February. A beta version of Operational Build 1 (OB1) was installed at WRH last week. Plans are for WFO Pendleton to field test OB1 in January 2003. Operational downtime with OB1 is five to six hours. Field implementation of OB1 depends on the AWIPS Linux pre-processor (PX) implementation schedule. Installation of the pre-processors is a pre-requisite for installing OB1. A tentative schedule for these installations (PXs and OB1) is March through May. Other upgrades planned for AWIPS in FY03 are the replacement of the remaining HP workstations with Linux workstations and installation of OB2.

**Mandatory NOAA IT Security Awareness Training:** As a reminder, all NOAA employees and contractors must complete the mandatory NOAA IT security awareness training each year. NOAA on-line IT security awareness training may be accessed at the below link.

<https://www.csp.noaa.gov/noaa/itsac2001/index.htm>